№. 105.

№. 105.

A Teſtimony againſt Gaming, Muſick, Dancing, Singing, Swearing, and Peoples calling upon GOD to DAMN them.

Commended to the Conſciences of all People in the ſight of God, but more eſpecially to thoſe who keep publick Houſes.

Firſt, SEE that you ſuffer none to play at any ſort of Game in your Houſes, *viz.* **Cards**, **Dice**, **Tables**, **Shuffle-board**, and the like, for in ſo doing you will diſpleaſe the Lord, and may cauſe him to bring a blaſt upon all your Undertakings: But on the contrary, reprove and admoniſh ſuch in Gods fear; For it never was the Practice of Gods People in the Primitive times to game away their precious time, which the Lord gave them to *work out their own Salvation in*; neither is it the practice of them that are *Chriſtians* in deed in this day, though the *Nominal-Chriſtians* may plead for it.

Dr. Ames, de Conſc. lib. 4. c. 23. § 5. ſaith, *Plays which depend meerly or principally of Fortune, are of their own nature Unlawful.*

Therefore you that know the *Life of true Chriſtianity*, bear your Teſtimonies faithfully againſt **Gaming**, for it is as it were a piece of *Witchcraft*; for when Mens hearts and minds are exerciſed in it, they are even overcome by the ſame, and ſo are ſerving the Enemy of their own immortal Souls with all their ſtrength, and the fear of the Lord is not before their Eyes; for when their hearts and minds are exerciſed in their *Games*, it is as it were their *God*, and often-times tends to *Quarrelling*, *Fighting* and *Bloodſhed*. It is therefore good for all that are *Chriſtians* in deed and in truth, to bear your Teſtimonies againſt *Gaming*; for this is certainly true, that the Lord and his truth is diſhonoured by admitting People to Game in your Houſes: Therefore be careful in bringing *Honour* to *God* by bearing your Teſtimonies for him and his Truth, againſt that that is diſpleaſing unto the Lord, and hurtful unto your own poor Souls.

Secondly, See that you ſuffer none to play upon any ſort of **Muſick**, nor any to **Dance**, **Sing** or **Swear** in your Houſes; but bear your Teſtimonies againſt ſuch things, both by reproving them in Gods fear and love, and in obſtructing the ſame; for they are all diſpleaſing in the ſight of the Lord, and may cauſe his Judgments to come upon your Houſes and Families. Therefore to prevent the ſame from coming upon you, live up to that gift which the Lord hath given you, that you may ſtand in your places, and bear a Teſtimony for the Lord and his Truth in your Day, Age and Generation; then will the Lord bleſs and proſper you, both inwardly and outwardly, and in all that you undertake; and all that do rejoyce, *let them Rejoyce in the Lord.*

Prov. 14. 13. *Even in Laughter the Heart is made ſorrowful, and the end of that Mirth is heavineſs.*

Eccleſ. 7. 4. *The heart of the Wiſe, is in the houſe of Mourning; but the heart of Fools is in the houſe of Mirth.*

Muſick is a thing that ſtealeth the hearts of them that play upon it, or adhere unto it, from the Lord (& tends to raiſe up a *light, airy, frothy, wanton Mind*; for they that *live in Pleaſures, are dead while they live*; and they that *live wantonly, kill the juſt*) for when Mens hearts and minds are exerciſed by it, they remember not the Lord that made them and all Mankind, *for a purpoſe of his own Glory*; but ſpend away their precious time in that which the Lord by his Prophet *Amos* bore Teſtimony againſt, as you may read in the 6th Chap. of the Prophecy of that Prophet; in which he pronounceth a **Wo** *unto them that chaunt unto the* **Viol**, *and invent unto themſelves* **Inſtruments of Muſick**, *like unto* David. Do ſuch *Remember their Creator in the days of their Youth?* No; they have rather forgotten their Maker, which would be their **Saviour**, if they would come to be ſaved by him, from their *periſhing fading Vanities*, which God and his People are againſt.

Singing and **Dancing** are of the ſame Root & Ground with **Gaming** & **Muſick**, &c. all which proceed from that ſeed which the Enemy of Man and Womans Salvation hath ſown in the hearts of the *Children of Diſobedience*, which Enemy is the *Devil*, who *walks about, ſeeking whom he may devour.* & ſuch who let looſe their hearts, minds and affections after thoſe things, purſuing and following with greedineſs after the ſame, are making an *Idol* of them, and do deſire more after them than they do after the knowledge of God, *whom to know is Life Eternal*; and ſo hereby God, who alone ought to be ſought after and bowed down unto, is robbed of that which is his right, even the *Praiſe*, the *Honour* and the *Glory of his Name*, which ought to be given unto him from every reaſonable Creature that he hath made by his mighty Power; for it is the incumbent duty of all Mankind to ſerve the Lord above all things, even with all their Souls and all their Might, and not run into *fading Vanities*, which periſh in the uſing, and which bring *Tribulation*, *Anguiſh* and *Wrath* upon all that are found in them; *for God will not be mocked; ſuch as every Man ſows, ſuch they muſt reap from divine Juſtice, who renders unto every Man according unto his deeds, without reſpect of Perſons.*

Iſ. 24. 9. *They ſhall not drink Wine with a Song; ſtrong drink ſhall be bitter to them that drink it.*

Amos 8. 10. *And I will turn your Feaſts into Mourning, and all your Songs into Lamentation.*

Some that delight in Muſick may object, *That* David *and others of the People of God, did play upon Inſtruments of* **Muſick**.

Anſw. *David* and others who were faithful to God, did not play upon *Inſtruments of Muſick* to ſtir up, raiſe & elivate a *vain, ſinful, unclean Mind* in themſelves or any others; but their playing upon and uſe of *Inſtruments of Muſick* being under the Shadowy diſpenſation of the Law, what they did herein, they did it unto the Lord, The Prieſts under the Law had a command to *ſound Trumpets*, which was a ſort of *Muſick*; and *David* and others made uſe of other Inſtruments, as the *Flute*, *Harp* & *Cymbal*; & this they did in honour and praiſe to the Lord, and not to ſtir up a *vain*, *wanton*, *Light*, *airy*, *fleſhly* and *ungodly Mind*, as it may be ſeen in the Scriptures of Truth.

Job 21. 13. *They ſpend their days in Wealth, and in a moment go down to the Grave.*

Again, ſome may plead for **Dancing**, *becauſe* David *danced before the Ark.*

Anſw. This *Dancing* was in the time of the *Law*, and was a token of his rejoycing, becauſe of the *Ark of God*, which was brought back out of the *Philiſtines* Land, who were Enemies to God and his People: This *Dancing* was not like the *Dancing* of the *vain*, *wanton* and *prophane Perſons* of our Age, nor yet like the *Dancing* of *Herodias*'s Daughter, who danced before King *Herod*, who after ſhe had danced, demanded the Head of the Man of God, *John the Baptiſt*, and had it, being thereunto inſtructed by her malicious Mother.

As concerning **Singing** and **Rejoycing**, true *Singing* & ~~in~~ *Rejoycing* the Lord God did own under the Law, which was Shadowy, & ſtood in many carnal Ordinances, which were to continue *until the time of Reformation*, as ſaith the Apoſtle, *Heb. 9. 10.* which time is the Time of the Goſpel, which is come.

Again, God did and doth own **Singing** in the **Spirit** under the diſpenſation of the Goſpel; but the **Singers** that God doth own under the Goſpel diſpenſation, are thoſe who are firſt taught by him to mourn for, repent of, and forſake their Sins; ſuch who are led by the Spirit of the Lord to mourn for, repent of, and forſake their Sins, in the ſame Spirit they may *Sing*, as it moves and leads them. The Apoſtle *Paul* ſaid, *I will* **Sing** *with the* **Spirit**, *and with* **Underſtanding**, *1 Cor.* 14. 15. And it is written, *Iſa.* 35. 10. *The* **Redeemed** *of the Lord ſhall return to* Sion *with* **Songs** *of* **Deliverance**. And it is written, *Rev.* 15. 3. *They that were* **Redeemed** *from the Earth, ſang the* **Song** *of* Moſes *and the* Lamb. And Wiſe *Solomon* ſaid, (*Eccleſ.* 7. 2, 3.) **Sorrow** *is better then* **Laughter**; *and it's better to go into the* **Houſe** *of* **Mourning** *then into the* **Houſe** *of* **Mirth**: **Mourning** *in the unregenerate, in the ſenſe of their Sins, is better then* **Laughter** *and* **Singing**. *And God will turn the* **Songs** *of the wicked into* **Mourning**, *Amos* 8. 10. And Chriſt ſaid, *Mat.* 12. 36. *Every* **Idle Word** *that Men ſhall ſpeak, they ſhall give an account thereof in the day of Judgment.* And the Apoſtle *James* ſaith, *Who among you ſeem to be Religious, and bridleth not his Tongue, but deceiveth his own Heart, this mans Religion is vain*, James 1. 26.

Obſerve that *Nebuchadnezar*, the Heathen King, and his company of Idolaters had **Muſick**, (*viz.*) the Sound of the **Cornet**, **Flute**, **Harp**, **Sacbut**, **Pſaltery** and **Dulcimer**, and all kinds of **Muſick**, when they Worſhipped the Golden Image that he had ſet up: Theſe were they which caſt the three Children into the fiery Furnace. This their *Muſick* and *Rejoycing* was Wicked and Ungodly.

Again, obſerve, the Apoſtle ſaid unto the true *Chriſtians*, *Be ye not drunk with* **Wine**, *wherein is Exceſs, but be filled with the Spirit; ſpeaking to your ſelves in* **Pſalms**, **Hymns**, *and* **Spiritual Songs**, *Singing and making Melody in your Hearts to the Lord*, Epheſ. 5. 19.

Peter [illegible] com. 6. 13. & ſaith *Holidays in our Age celebrated after a Diabolical manner, like bacchanals Devils Feſtivals; moſt Sins then committed, moſt Feaſt Songs, Bowlings, Tavernings, Scurrilitys, Dances with Women, as Straw with Fire.*

Alſo **Swearing** & calling upon **God to Damn them**, and **Blaſpheming** the pure, holy and undefiled **Name of God**, proceeds even from the ſame Root that **Gaming**, **Muſick**, **Singing** and **Dancing** do ariſe and ſpring from: Therefore let none who are found in any of thoſe things, (to wit, in **Swearing**, **Damning Curſing** & **Blaſpheming the Name of the Lord**) think to eſcape Gods Righteous Judgments; for it is written, *The Lord will not hold him guiltleſs that taketh his* **Name in Vain**. And the Lord complains by the Prophet *Jeremiah*, *Becauſe of* **Swearing** *the Land* **Mourneth**, Jer. 23. 10.

Therefore all you that are concerned, as Witneſſes for God, ſee that you bear your Teſtimonies againſt theſe things, that the Lord may bleſs you and proſper you in all your *Undertakings*, that the **Praiſe** and **Honour**, which is his due, he may receive from you, and you from him a **Crown of Glory**, which fadeth not away when time here ſhall be no more.

John Kelſall.

As a former teſtimony againſt Debauchery he cites.

Niceph. lib. 19. Herodias *her Daughters Head danced upon the Ice.*

Ambros de virg l. 3. Jerom epiſt. 10. 4. Chriſt hom. 56. on Mathew. 49. Baſil. on Drunkneſs and Riot.

Cicero a Heathen *pro murana* ſays *No Sober Man danceth*, and objects it as a Crime to *Antonius* 6.

In the Kings Proclamation againſt Vicious, Debauched and Prophane Perſons, *&c.* dated *May* the 30th 1660. in the Twelvth Year of his Reign; are theſe Remarkable Paſſages following.

> “**THere is a ſort of Men** *of whom we are ſufficiently* **aſhamed**, *who ſpend their*
> “*time in* **Tavernes**, **Tippleing-houſes and Debauchees**, *giving no other E-*
> “*vidence of their affection to us, but in* **Drinking our Health**, *and* **inveighing**
> “**againſt all others** *who are not of their own* **diſſolute temper**, *and who in Truth have*
> “**more diſcredited our Cauſe**, *by the* **licenſe** *of their* **Manners** *and* **Lives**, *then they*
> “*could ever* **advance** *it by their* **Affection** *and* **Courage**.—*We reaſonably hope theſe Men will*
> “*cordially renounce all that* **Licencionſneſs**, **Profaneneſs** *and* **Impiety** *with which*
> “*they have been* **corrupted**, *and* **endeavoured to corrupt others**; *and that they will*
> “*hereafter become Examples of* **Sobriety** *and* **Vertue**.—*We will not exerciſe* **juſt ſeverity**
> “*againſt* **any Malefactors**, *ſooner then againſt* **Men of Diſſolute**, **Debauched** *and*
> “**Prophane Lives**, *with what parts ſoever they may be otherwayes qualified and endowed.—And*
> “*We hope all Perſons of Honour, or in Place and Authority, will ſo far aſſiſt Us in diſcountenancing*
> “*ſuch Men, that their* **Diſcretion** *and* **Shame** *will perſwade them to reform what their*
> “**Conſciences would not**.—*Which may by the Example and Severity of* **Vertuous** *Men*
> “*be eaſily diſcountenanced, and by degrees ſuppreſſed.*
> “*However for the more effectual reforming* **theſe Men**, *who are a* **diſcredit to the Na-**
> “**tion**, *and unto* **any Cauſe** *they pretend to favour and to wiſh well to. We require all Mayors,*
> “*and Sheriffs, and Juſtices of the Peace, to be very* **vigilent** *and* **ſtrict** *in the* **diſcovery** *and*
> “**proſecution** *of all* **Diſſolute** *and* **Prophane Swearing** *and* **Curſing**.

THis was **Re-inforced** by a ſecond Proclamation of the King, the 13th of *Auguſt*, 1660. charging all Miniſters to read it once each Month, for ſix Months enſuing, & **Stir Up** their **Auditors** to obſerve the ſaid **Duties**, and avoid the ſaid **Vices**.

LEt all conſider Iſrael *of old, who when they forgot God (who had wrought mighty Deliverance for them) how they ran in Feaſting Dancing, & Idolatry; as it is written,* They ſate down to Eat and Drink and roſe up to play, and danced about the Golden Calf which they had ſet up. *But it was a diſmal dance unto them; for ſeveral Thouſands of them were deſtroyed in one day,* Ex. 32. 6, 19, 27.

And every one that Sweareth ſhall be cut off, &c. Zach. 5. 3.

By Swearing, and Lying, and Killing, and Stealing, and committing Adultery, they break out, and Blood toucheth Blood, Hoſea 4. 2.

If the Righteous ſcarcely ſhall be ſaved, where ſhall the Wicked and Ungodly appear? 1 Pet. 4. 18

Mat. 5. 9. *But he that ſhall blaſpheme is in danger of eternal damnation.*

LONDON, Reprinted with Additions, by *John Bringhurſt*.